

Entzel for a distinguished career with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Her dedication and commitment to the profession of law enforcement reflects great credit upon herself and the United States of America.

GLOBAL HEALTH INNOVATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1660, Global Health Innovation Act, because it encourages the continual research and development of new global health strategies and promotes transparency between our Federal agencies and the United States Congress.

Under H.R. 1660, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) would be required to report to Congress on the development and use of global health innovations in USAID programs, projects, and activities.

This annual report would have to include a thorough description of:

The extent to which global health innovations include drugs, vaccines, and mobile technologies, as well as related service delivery improvements and behavior changes;

How innovation has advanced USAID's efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, end preventable child and maternal deaths, protect communities from infectious diseases, and further its Global Health Strategic Framework;

Progress made toward health product development goals;

How USAID's investments in innovation relate to its goals;

How USAID leverages investments to improve health innovation, develops affordable global health products, and advances health innovations in development;

USAID's collaboration with other federal agencies; and

How USAID is coordinating global health innovation activities between its Global Development Lab, Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact, and Bureau for Global Health.

The report would have to be submitted within 180 days of the bill's enactment, and then annually for four years.

The critical research and development of global health technologies has facilitated the development of life-saving technologies saving countless lives across the globe.

Ultimately, the goal of H.R. 1660 is to support a long-term program to develop these much needed health technologies and innovative easy-to-use health solutions for low resource environment.

I have always been an advocate for the protection of women and children.

This bill would help to stifle the spread of infectious diseases in underdeveloped countries, and work to find new and improved ways to fight infection for those who cannot fight themselves.

So I stand for H.R. 1660; and I ask my colleagues to stand with me in support of this bill, and the pursuit of improved global health.

THESE IRANIAN PROTESTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM 2009

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following op-ed, written by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, the elected President of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, in support of the Iranian quest for freedom, printed in the Wall Street Journal on January 9, 2018.

THESE IRANIAN PROTESTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM 2009

Then, the cause was a rift within the regime. Now, the people are demanding an end to the regime.

The protests in Iran send a cogent message: The clerical regime stands on shaky ground, and the Iranian people are unwavering in their quest to bring it down. Slogans against velayat-e faqih, or absolute clerical rule, called for a real republic and explicitly targeted the regime's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. This dispels the myth, still harbored by some governments, that Iranians distinguish between moderates and hard-liners in Tehran. It also undercuts flawed arguments depicting a stable regime.

Millions of Iranians live in poverty. Yet Tehran has spent upward of \$100 billion on the massacre in Syria, according to reports obtained by the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The chants of "Death to Hezbollah" and "Leave Syria, think about us instead" clearly demonstrate the people's opposition to the regime's belligerent regional schemes.

The country's official budget this year allocates more than \$26.8 billion to military and security affairs and the export of terrorism. This is in addition to the \$27.5 billion in military spending from institutions controlled by Mr. Khamenei and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The budget for health care is a mere \$16.3 billion. Weak and vulnerable, the regime spends such astronomical sums on regional meddling as part of its strategy for survival.

Skeptics might point out that Iran has faced protests before. What makes the current uprising different from the 2009 protests?

The 2009 protests were sparked by rifts at the top of the regime. The current protests—which began in Iran's second-largest city of Mashhad and quickly spread across the country—were motivated by rising prices, economic ruin, widespread corruption and resentment toward the regime. This systemic economic mismanagement has its roots in the political system, and it grows worse every day. That is why the demand for regime change surfaced almost immediately. It seems to be the only conceivable outcome.

Another major difference: The 2009 uprising was initially led by the upper middle class, with university students at its core and Tehran as its center. The recent demonstrations span a much broader swath of the population—the middle class, the underprivileged, workers, students, women and young people. Nearly all of society has been represented on the picket line.

Nor is the current uprising tied to any of the regime's internal factions or groupings. There are no illusions about reform or gradual change from within. One of the popular slogans in Tehran is "Hard-liners, reformers, the game is now over." This is yet another sign of the certainty of overthrow. As an Iranian expression goes: Maybe sooner or later, but definitely certain.

The final differentiating factor is the pace of events. In less than 24 hours, the protesters' slogans shifted from economic woes to rejection of the entire regime. The establishment has been caught off guard and is scrambling to find a unified solution. The IRGC declared victory over the protests on Sunday, but this reflects its hopes more than the reality on the ground.

The regime has issued strong warnings against joining the leading opposition group, Mujahedin-e Khalq. One after another, low-ranking and senior officials, joined by the Friday prayer leaders across the country who toe the regime's line, blame the MEK for the protests. The torrent of statements by regime officials reflect their panic at the expansion of the nationwide uprising and the rising popularity of the MEK and the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

The religious dictatorship has resorted to extensive suppression to confront protesters. The IRGC has killed at least 50 people and wounded hundreds. By the end of the ninth day of protests, at least 3,000 had been arrested, according to our sources in the country. Numerous reports indicate that security forces literally knock on people's doors and warn them against attending demonstrations. The net of suppression has been cast as wide as possible.

In light of this brutal repression, the international community must not remain silent. The United Nations Security Council must adopt punitive measures against the regime's crimes. This has long been the demand of the Iranian people and opposition. We must not forget that the perpetrators of the horrific 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners are still in power today, holding senior executive and judicial positions while engaging in the murder of protesters in the streets.

Perhaps the final difference between the 2009 protests and the recent uprising will be that the latter succeeds in overthrowing the reviled theocracy in Iran. The people of Iran fervently hope so.

HONORING THE CAREER OF STEPHEN ALFRED

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary career of Stephen Alfred of South Kingstown, whose time as Town Manager will soon come to a close after more than forty remarkable years of service. Mr. Alfred's sense of leadership, dedication to community, and perseverance are just a few of the reasons we will miss him upon his retirement.

Alfred quickly found his way into public service after earning his bachelor's degree from Providence College in 1974. While pursuing his graduate degree from the University of Rhode Island the following year, he interned at South Kingstown Town Hall where he began working full time after concluding his studies. In 1976, at age twenty-four, he became acting Town Manager—a position made permanent the following year.

Alfred's tenure has spanned an impressive twenty-one Town Councils, and he has overseen South Kingstown's growth from a town of 16,000 to one of more than 30,000 residents. Through the years, he has earned the immense respect and admiration of his